

Adult Slow Pitch Softball Rules

Hastings Parks & Recreation Department

Team managers are expected to communicate all rules to their respective team(s)

ASA rules apply except for the following modifications:

A. Code of Conduct & Park Rules

1. Code of Conduct

- Managers are expected to set an example of good sportsmanship and fair play, and are responsible for the actions of their players
- Profanity or verbal sparring between players, managers or spectators in the vicinity of the playing field is not tolerated
- Participants should never touch, shove, strike, use abusive language, make gestures towards or threaten an umpire
- Incidents involving anything stated above will result in ejection from the game
- The Protest Committee will review any situation that involves an ejection to determine if additional suspension is necessary

2. Ejections

- Any participant or spectator ejected from a game must leave the park premises immediately
- The ejected player may not return to the park for the remainder of the evening
- The ejected player will also be suspended for the next scheduled game
- If a player is ejected twice in the same season that player will be suspended for the remainder of the season and tournament

3. Alcohol & Tobacco

- Beer & wine/wine cooler is allowed at Veterans Park
- If an umpire feels a player has become intoxicated to the point they are belligerent or a safety hazard to themselves or others the player will be ejected from the game
- All city-owned parks or outdoor recreational facilities are tobacco free

4. Littering

- Managers are responsible for cleaning up after their teams
- Recycling and garbage receptacles are available at the park, please utilize them
- **Failure to keep bench areas clean may result in the forfeiture of your conduct fee**

5. Practice/Warm Up

- Teams may practice between outfields if they do not interfere with other teams
- Warm up is not allowed in any picnic area or on an outfield where a game is in progress or being prepared for a game
- Reserve practice fields prior to the season by calling the Parks and Recreation Department

B. Safety

1. Bench Personnel

- Only players, managers, and scorekeepers (18 years and older) will be allowed on the bench

2. Insurance

- The City of Hastings does not carry medical insurance for adult softball participants
- Players should have family, company or team insurance (medical) coverage
- The A.S.A. offers a team accident insurance program, visit www.asasoftball.com for information

3. Infectious Disease Control

- A player, coach or official who is bleeding or who has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered.
Appropriate treatment is:
 - A. Bleeding has stopped
 - B. Injury is covered
 - C. Uniform changed or disinfected with acceptable disinfectant*
 - D. Competition area/equipment disinfected with acceptable disinfectant
- If treatment can be administered within three minutes, the individual would not have to leave the game. Otherwise, substitution of the individual must take place.

C. Registration

1. Fees

- Teams **CANNOT** play until league fees and conduct fees are paid in full

2. Distribution of Teams

- The Hastings Park and Recreation Department reserves the right to place teams in leagues or divisions in order to optimize competition or to allow the opportunity for teams to play

3. Disbandment

- In the event that a team disbands before all scheduled games are completed all remaining games will be forfeited and no refund will be given

D. Rosters

1. Roster Eligibility

- Players must be sixteen (16) years of age or older to participate
- Players under eighteen (18) years of age must have a guardian sign the waiver
- No player may play on two (2) different teams in the same league
- Recreational White teams can have a maximum of two (2) players from a competitive team
- No player from the Competitive Gold or Silver League can play in the Recreational Red League
- No player from Women's Gold League can play in the Women's Silver League
- No player from Men's Competitive League can play in the Men's Recreational League during fall

2. Waiver

- Each team will submit a completed waiver form on the day of its first game
- Each player must fill out the waiver form completely with signature
- Teams **CANNOT** play until the waiver is turned in

3. Official Roster

- An official roster must be emailed to the Sports & Recreation Coordinator before the start of the seventh (7th) game of the season
- A maximum of 20 players can be listed on an official roster
- This official roster will be your tournament roster, any player not listed on this roster will not be eligible to play for your team during the tournament
- Rosters will be posted online for all teams to view
- Teams who do not submit a roster will not be eligible for tournament play

4. Roster Protest

- A roster protest must be made before the last out of the game
- When a roster protest is made the game will stop immediately and the player being protested must show VALID IDENTIFICATION that matches a name on the official roster for that team
- If a player(s) is found to be ineligible the player will be ejected and the game will continue, every time the ejected players spot comes up in the batting order and out will be assessed
- If a player(s) being protested is found to be legal, the protesting team will be charged three (3) outs per legal player protested

E. Umpires

1. Certification

- All umpires are certified through the Amateur Softball Association (ASA)

2. Authority

- Umpires have complete authority during a game
- Umpires can eject a manager, player, coach or spectator
- Umpires can cancel a game if inclement weather hits during game play

3. Mockery of the Game

- A mockery of the game is a play that was purposely mishandled by a defensive or offensive player
- If any player makes a mockery of the game the umpire has the authority to intervene
- Continuous mockery of the game could lead to ejection or forfeiture

4. No Show

- If an umpire does not show for a game teams should notify the lead umpire in the park
- Teams should then use a volunteer umpire and the game will count
- The volunteer umpire will be paid

F. Equipment

1. Softballs

- The Hastings Park and Recreation Department will supply two (2) softballs for each game
 - A. Men's League: 12 inch / .52 core / 300 lbs
 - B. Women's League: 11 inch / .44 core / 375 lbs
 - C. Co-Rec League: One of each listed above
- The third (3rd) base coach will handle the softballs that are in play during co-rec league games

2. Bats

- Only ASA certified bats will be allowed
- Any bat that becomes illegal during the season determined by the ASA will not be allowed
- For more information on certified bats visit ASA at www.asasoftball.com

3. Batting Rings & Donuts

- Batting rings or donuts are not allowed

4. Spikes

- Metal spikes are not allowed

5. Hats

- Hats or visors must be worn with the visor facing forward except for the catcher when playing defense

6. Jewelry

- All exposed jewelry or items that are judged to be hazardous or potentially dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game

G. Regulation Game

1. Length of Game

- Games will be seven (7) innings long
- No new inning will start after fifty five (55) minutes of play
- Women's League – The game is over after sixty (60) minutes of play and the score reverts back to the last completed inning
- If the game is tied at the end of seven (7) innings and the time limit has not expired additional innings will be played using the international rule, no new inning will start after the time limit has expired

2. Grace Period

- There is a ten (10) minute grace period for games starting at 6:30 p.m. and no grace period for any other games
- A team unable to field the minimum number of players required once the grace period expires will forfeit the game
- The game clock will begin at the originally scheduled start time even if the grace period is used

3. Number of Players

- A team will need to field a minimum of eight (8) or a maximum of ten (10) players at all times
- Co-Rec League – Teams may play with the following ratios:
 - *A team may always play with more females than males*

- *A team with ten (10) players must have at least five (5) female players*
- *A team with nine (9) players must have at least five (5) female players*
- *A team with eight (8) players must have at least four (4) female players*
- *Teams must play defense with equal amount of males/females in the outfield and infield positions*
- *The pitcher and catcher must be opposite sex*
- A team falling below the minimum of eight (8) players at any time during play due to an ejection, emergency leave or non-emergency leave will forfeit the game
- The maximum number players in a lineup is twenty (20) players

4. Emergency Leave

- There will be no penalty out for players removed from the lineup due to injury or an emergency deemed legitimate by the umpire
- Co-Rec League - If a female player leaves a game and a sub is not available, ratios will need to be kept and may require a male player to leave the game

5. Non-Emergency Leave

- Any team who has a player leave the game for a non-emergency reason will be assessed an out every time that players spot in the batting lineup comes up

6. Late Arriving Player(s)

- Any late arriving player(s) may be added to the end of the lineup
- Co-Rec League – Any late arriving player(s) may be inserted into the lineup as long as the male to female ratio is kept

7. Scorekeeper

- The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook

8. Run Rule

- The game will end if a team is winning by:
 - A. 15 runs after 4 innings
 - B. 10 runs after 5 innings
- Flip Flop Rule will be used when the run rule has been reached by the visiting team by the end of the inning prior to the run rule going into effect, the home team clears the bases at the end of that inning and starts the next inning by continuing to bat as the visiting team; play continues as it normally would with run rules in effect; if the situation reverses the teams would flip-flop again

9. Inclement Weather

- Games shortened by inclement weather or for administrative reasons will be official if:
 - A. The home team is winning after three and a half (3 ½) innings
 - B. Four (4) full innings have been completed

- C. Forty (40) minutes of game time has been played
- The game will revert back to the last completed inning if the game is shortened and meets one of the requirements listed above

10. Forfeitures

- Managers need to inform the Sports & Recreation Coordinator by 10:00 a.m. on the day of their scheduled game if they are unable to field a team or they will incur a \$25 forfeit penalty that will need to be paid before their next scheduled game
- Forfeits will be scored as a 7 – 0 loss

H. Tournament Games

1. Length of Games

- Tournament games will be seven (7) innings long
- Extra innings will be played to break a tie
- No new inning will start after sixty five (65) minutes of play
- The championship game(s) will have no time limit

2. Seeding & Home Team Determination

- Seeding will be determined by a team's regular season record
- If two teams have identical records the following tie breaking order will determine the better seed:
 - A. Team with better head to head record
 - B. Team with higher run differential in head to head games
 - C. Team with higher run differential in all regular season games
 - D. Team with higher runs for in all regular season games
 - E. Team with fewest runs against in all regular season games
 - F. Coin Flip
- If three or more teams have identical records the following tie breaking order will determine the better seed:
 - A. Team with higher run differential in all regular season games
 - B. Team with higher runs for in all regular season games
 - C. Team with fewer runs against in all regular season games
 - D. Coin Flip
- The home team will be awarded to the team that first, has the fewest tournament losses, and second, has the better seed

3. Tournament Forfeitures

- If both teams forfeit a tournament game, the team with first, the fewest tournament losses, and second, has the better seed will advance

I. Pitching & Batting

1. Legal Pitch

- The pitched ball must arc and reach a minimum height of six (6) feet from the ground and shall not rise higher than twelve (12) feet from the ground
- Men's Competitive Leagues - The pitcher has the option of moving back an additional 6 feet (any distance 50-56'), and can change distances for, and during, each batter

2. Count

- All batters have a 3/2 count with a courtesy foul
- Co-Rec League – If a male batter is walked he is awarded 2nd base, with two (2) outs the female on deck has the option to walk to 1st base or hit and must declare her intention to the umpire

3. No Digging –In

- Players may not remove or disturb any material from the batter's box area
- Loose material may be spread by a player's foot
- A warning and subsequent outs will be charged to a team who does not follow this rule

4. Home Run Rule

- Any home run(s) hit after the max has been reached will be considered an out
 - A. Men's Recreational Leagues – Two (2) max
 - B. Men's Competitive Leagues – Four (4) max
 - C. Women's Leagues - Unlimited
 - D. Co-Recreational Leagues - Two (2) & one (1) up for men, unlimited for women

5. Hit It, Get It

- Any foul ball or home run hit out of play must be retrieved by the team at bat
- Failure to do so within a reasonable amount of time will result in an automatic out

6. Co-Rec Batting Order

- A team must alternate female and male batters in the lineup

7. Co-Rec Outfield Line

- Outfielders cannot cross in front of the "co-rec" outfield line before the ball is hit

J. Base Running

1. Pinch Runner

- If a pinch runner is used it must be the player who was the last recorded out

2. Get Down

- All runners must get down or out of the way on close plays at any base except for first
- If the base runner does not get down or out of the way, he/she will be out and/or called for interference
- It will be the umpires judgment to decide whether the outcome of the play resulted in interference

K. Scheduling & Cancellations

1. Regular Season Games

- Games will be scheduled starting at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 and/or 9:30 p.m.
- Regular season games will be scheduled as single games or double headers

2. Tournament Games

- Tournament games will be scheduled for the week following the conclusion of the regular season or make up games
- Tournament games can be scheduled starting at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 and/or 9:30 p.m.

3. Cancellations

- Call the weather hotline at 651-480-2392 for information about cancelled games
- The Park and Recreation Department will update the weather line by 4:45 p.m. if fields are in unplayable condition
- If fields become unplayable after 4:45 p.m. managers will attempt to contact managers via email

4. Make Up Games

- There are a predetermined amount of rain dates reserved that will be used to make up any cancelled games
- Make up games will be played at the end of the regular season on normal league nights
- The Park and Recreation Department reserves the right to use days other than normal league nights, if necessary, to make up games
- The Park and Recreation Department cannot guarantee all canceled games will be made up